

PENISTONE

Urban District Council.

ANNUAL

REPORT

OF

MR. JAMES A. ROSS, M.B., C.M.,

The Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1902.

PENISTONE :

J. H. Wood, Printer, etc., The Don Press,

REPORT.

To the Chairman and Members, of the Penistone
Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

In presenting my Report for 1902, I have to note a diminution in the death-rate for the year. The number of deaths actually occurring in the district was 43, but to these have to be added 3 deaths of residents which took place in Sheffield Infirmary, and 1 death which occurred in the Workhouse. This gives a corrected total of 47 deaths, and a net death-rate of 14·9 per thousand of the estimated population. The average death-rate for the preceding ten years was 16·2.

There were 17 deaths under 5 years of age, 14 of these being in infants under 1 year. 12 deaths occurred in persons over 65 years of age.

Of the total deaths, 9 were due to phthisis and other tubercular disease, 2 to pneumonia, 3 to whooping cough, and 1 to diarrhœa.

The Infant death-rate shows a great increase on that for 1901. The total number of registered births was 80, and the number of deaths under 1 year was 14, which gives an Infant death-rate of 174 per thousand births. Last year the rate was 67·9. Of the deaths under 1 year, 3 were due to whooping cough, 2 to premature birth, 2 to accident at birth, and 1 to diarrhœa. There is no return of still births.

The total number of registered births was 80, 44 males and 36 females. This, taking the estimated population as 3140, gives a birth-rate of 25·4 per thousand. This is below the average for the last ten years which was 30·9.

Only 12 cases of Zymotic disease were notified during the year, 8 of diphtheria, 2 of scarlet fever, and 2 of erysipelas. There were no deaths from these diseases. 2 cases of diphtheria occurred in January in a house in Railway Terrace. The other 6 cases were notified between June 27th and July 5th, and occurred in two adjacent houses in Spring Vale, to which locality the outbreak was fortunately restricted.

The diagnosis of diphtheria in the early stage is often extremely difficult, or impossible, without a bacteriological examination, and I have to acknowledge with thanks, the very valuable assistance rendered in making these examinations by the Laboratory at the County Hall, Wakefield. Fifteen specimens were submitted to the Laboratory for examination during the year: Thirteen were from suspected cases of diphtheria, and the others, tubercle, and enteric fever. The results of the examinations, whether positive or negative, were always returned promptly, and were of the greatest service.

In July there was a wide-spread epidemic of measles, which so seriously affected the attendance at the schools that it was found necessary to close them from July 28th to August 11th.

Seven new houses, of the cottage class, were completed during 1902. Seven new closets were constructed, and 9 re-constructed.

NUISANCES.

In my Report for last year I called attention to the absence of any system in the reporting of nuisances, and suggested that a list of matters requiring attention should be furnished to me at convenient intervals, say once a month. Nothing of the kind has been done so far, and I should be glad if the Council could see their way to having this suggestion carried out.

Among the numerous nuisances, one of the most widely complained of has been the emanation of sewer-gas from the manholes in the centre of the roadways. This, in some places, has been at times most offensive and dangerous to health, and on account of the short supply of water during the summer, when flushing is most needed, it was found impossible to fill the tanks for flushing the sewers. Surface water being excluded from the mains was of course not available for this purpose. At some points there appears to be also a leakage of coal-gas from the old gas mains into the sewers.

I believe this nuisance might be much abated by having close tops to the manholes, and the erection at suitable points of ventilating shafts to take the gas quite clear of the houses. Regular and efficient flushing is needed, but the present water supply will not admit of that in summer.

The cleansing of ashpits, closets, &c., was let by contract, and certainly there was some improvements, but the condition of a large proportion of these is still disgraceful. Complaints have been received from many quarters as to the non-emptying of these receptacles—my own now contains at least five cart loads—and unless some plan of dividing the districts and attending to each division in a methodical manner be adopted, these nuisances will still continue. In districts like Castle Green, where the receptacles are small, frequent emptying and cleansing are of the greatest importance.

Bridge End is still in its old unsatisfactory state. A few of the houses are not fit for habitation. The property in Wentworth Road is drained into cesspools, which also receive surface water. In wet weather these are rapidly filled and overflow. The sewage from one block flows along an open trench into the river, that from another block collects in a hollow close to the road, and constitutes a grave nuisance.

Amongst other nuisances which have been complained of may be mentioned the occasionally filthy condition of the public convenience in Bridge Street. Complaints have also been received respecting the convenience of the Commercial Inn, which is in a very exposed position on the footpath, and which might be removed to the rear of the building.

Persons depositing refuse on public footpaths ought to be severely dealt with, and the prosecution of one or two of them would have a wholesome effect. I refer more especially to the regular depositing of refuse by the inhabitants of Garside's and Armitage's Buildings, and Marsden Square. Offensive nuisances are caused by these persons every week. Another similar collection is occasionally to be observed in Victoria Street.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

Three Workshops have been registered in the district, but two of them have ceased to be used as such, that is, no workpeople are employed. The third, that of Brettoner & Brettoner, in Market Street, is satisfactory as regards cleanliness. The air space is ample, as the workroom contains 2,944 cubic feet, and an average number of three workpeople are employed; ventilation satisfactory. There is no closet accommodation on the premises, but one is provided about 100 yards away.

There is no notice exhibited specifying the maximum number of persons to be employed in the room. For a time the place was not used as a workshop, and the notice previously exhibited was mislaid or destroyed, and has not been replaced.

No overtime is worked at this establishment, and no out-workers are employed.

DRAINAGE.

Various schemes for the treatment of the sewage of the town at the outfall at Kirkwood have been under consideration, but have been rejected either on the ground of excessive cost, or for some other reason. A scheme of open septic tank, with filters, has been suggested by Dr. Barwise, who was asked to advise on the matter, as being a suitable one. This method is now under consideration, and in the meantime the sewage continues to find its way into the Don—as before.

No arrangement has yet been come to with Thurlstone as to the disposal of the joint sewage of Bridge End.

Water Supply.

The water supply during the summer was very short, and though it was not necessary to cut off the supply for so many hours per day, still, the pump was obliged to be kept going night and day, with frequent waits for water to rise in the well, in order to keep the town supplied.

A Government inquiry was held, and a loan of about £1,800 was granted in order to put down a compressed air pumping plant. This will enable more water to be got out of the well, and it is anticipated, will materially increase the supply.

No progress whatever appears to have recently been made in the matter of providing an Isolation Hospital for the district.

I am, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES A. ROSS, M.B., C.M.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Penistone,

April 5th, 1903.

TABLE C, 1902.

Penistone Urban District Council.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—JAMES ALEX. ROSS.

SALARY—£24

Is the Medical Officer of Health also appointed as Medical Officer to the School Board?—No.

SANITARY INSPECTOR—HENRY HANWELL.

SALARY—£24.

What other positions does the Sanitary Inspector fill?—

WATER SUPPLY—

Quality—Good. Action on Lead—None.

Any extensions or change during 1902?—No.

Any inadequacy in any part?—Cubley.

Any curtailment of public supply during 1902, owing to drought?—

SEWERAGE—

Is the district systematically sewered?—Yes.

Is rainfall excluded?—Yes.

Extensions or Improvements during 1902—Nil.

Any inadequacy, and where?—Bridge End.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL—

System adopted—None,

Any extensions?—No.

SCAVENGING—

Are the privy-middens, ash-places, etc., cleansed by Sanitary staff, by Contractors, or by Owners and Tenants?—Contractor.

Number of each type of receptacle:—

Open privy middens—10.

Covered privy middens—584

Pail or tub closets—3.

W.C.—36.

Other—6.

ADOPTIVE ACTS—

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890—Part 3 adopted 1897.

Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890—

Private Streets Works Act, 1892—

BYE-LAWS—

Any adopted or sanctioned during 1902?—

(a) Under the Public Health Act, 1875—

(b) Under the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890—

Are they properly enforced?—

Any Bye-laws needed?—

REGULATED BUILDINGS, TRADES, &c.—

Common Lodging Houses—Nil. Canal Boats—Nil. Slaughter Houses—Registered, ; Inspected, 2; General Condition, 1 good, 1 unsatisfactory. Cowsheds—Inspected, Offensive Trades—None.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL—Progress during 1902—None.

Has the Sanitary Authority in emergency during an outbreak of disease provided Nurses for home isolation?—No.

Does the Sanitary Authority provide antitoxin (gratis) for diphtheria cases?—No.

SCHOOLS—

No. of Public Elementary Schools in the district, (a) Board Schools, 2; (b) Other, 0.

No. closed during 1902 on account of sickness, 2 Total duration of such closure, 14 days.

Sanitary condition of school premises, satisfactory.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT—

No. of Workshops in the district as per Register—3, 2 given up.

No. of inspections made during 1902—1. Legal proceedings—None.

No. of Bakehouses included in above— No of Underground Bakehouses in District—

No. of Domestic Workshops included in above— No. of Domestic Factories in the district—

No. of Lists of Outworkers received—0

Any action as to unwholesome or infected outworkers' premises?—No.

DWELLINGS—

Number of houses built during 1902—7. General character—Cottage houses.

Any houses unfit for habitation?—A few at Bridge End.

Any overcrowding of persons in houses?—Several cases in Spring Vale.

Any action taken under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890?—No.

Any “unhealthy areas”?—No.

Is house-to-house inspection systematically made?—No.

Are records kept—No.

NUISANCES—

Total number of Nuisances in hand at close of 1901—6 At close of 1902—8. Reported during 1902—26. Abated during 1902— 21.

Total No. of Legal Notices served for Abatement of Nuisances during 1902.—Nil.

Total No. of Summonses or other Legal Proceedings—Nil.

Number of Sink Wastes Disconnected during 1902—0.

Number of Sink Wastes Trapped during 1902—0.

Number of Closets newly Constructed during 1902—7. Kinds—Earth closets.

Number of Closets Reconstructed during 1902—9. Kinds—5 earth closets, 4 W.C.'s.

METEOROLOGY—

Mean Temperature for year 1902— Rainfall—31·08 inches

WHAT ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN IN REGARD TO THE FOLLOWING MATTERS

Seizure of Unsound Food— Prosecutions—

Samples under Sale of Food and Drugs Acts—3 Prosecutions—Nil.

Has there been any poisoning during 1902 attributable to arsenical beer?—No.

River Pollution—All the sewage of the town discharges into the Don.

Smoke observations taken— Legal Notices—
Summonses—

Burial Grounds—No. in District, 2 ; Any need for extension?—No.

BIRTHS during 1902—Males, 44 ; Females, 36 ; Total, 80.

Number illegitimate included in the above—No information.

Any information as to number of Still Births—None.

DEATHS DURING 1902—(1) Gross Deaths, *i.e.*, Total actually registered in the district, without any correction—43.

(2) Nett Deaths on which the rates are calculated — Males, 22. Females, 25; Total, 47.

Number uncertified, included in the above—0

Sanitary Requirements of District, and Suggestions of Medical Officer of Health—Outfall Works ; Scheme for treatment of sewage of Bridge End ; Isolation Hospital.

TABLE I.
FOR WHOLE DISTRICT.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.		DEATHS AT ALL AGES. TOTAL.		Total Deaths in Public Institu- tions in the District	Deaths of Non- residents registered in Public Institu- tions in the District	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institu- tions beyond the District	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
		Numb'r	Rate ^a	Numb'r	Rate per 1000 Births registered	Numb'r	Rate [*]				Numb'r	Rate. *
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1892	2593	89	34.3			57	22					
1893	2626	83	31.6	6	72	39	14.5				39	14.5
1894	2658	82	30.8	7	85	29	10.5				29	10.5
1895	2692	84	31.1	13	155	55	20.4				55	20.4
1896	2725	73	26.8	11	151	49	19.4				49	19.4
1897	2760	85	30.8	9	106	42	14.9				42	14.9
1898	2794	85	30.4	10	48	48	17.5				48	17.5
1899	2829	88	31.1	11	125	46	16.6				46	16.6
1900	2864	86	30	13	151	33	11.1				33	11.1
1901	3082	103	33	17	67.9	49	15.8				51	15.8
Averages for years 1892—1901		85.8	30.9			44.7	16.2	—	—			
1902	3140	80	25.4	14	174	43	13.7	—	—	4	47	14.9

* Rates calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 1133.

Total Population at all ages	3071	} At Census of 1901.
Number of inhabited houses	589	
Average number of persons per house	5.2	

1—Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from within the District—Penistone Workhouse.

2—Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District—Sheffield Infirmary.

Is the Union Workhouse within the District?—No.

TABLE II.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.			PENISTONE			
Year.			Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
			<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1892 ...	...	...	2593	89	57	
1893 ...	..	...	2626	83	39	6
1894 ...	...	...	2658	82	29	7
1895 ...	..	..	2692	84	55	13
1896 ...	...	...	2725	73	49	11
1897 ...	...	...	2760	85	42	9
1898 ...	...	..	2794	85	48	10
1899 ..	...	..	2829	88	46	11
1900 ..	...	...	2864	86	33	13
1901 ...	...	...	3082	103	49	7
Averages of Years 1892 to 1901.				85·8	44·7	
1902 ...	...	...	3140	80	43	14

TABLE III.
CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE notified during the Year 1902.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	Cases Notified in Whole District.						
	At all Ages.	At Ages.—Years.					
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards
Small Pox.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	8	...	...	4	1	3	...
Membranous Croup...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	2	1	1	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	2	...	...	1	...	1	...
Typhus Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Relapsing Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	12	1	1	5	1	4	...

No Isolation Hospital.

TABLE IV.
Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1902.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in all Districts at subjoined Ages							Deaths in Public Institutions.
	All Ages	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65	65 and upwards.	
Whooping Cough.....	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis.....	8	1	...	...	2	5	...	...
Other Tubercular Diseases...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis.....	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Pneumonia	2	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Heart Diseases	8	...	...	...	...	4	4	...
Pleurisy.....	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of Liver	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Immaturity of Birth	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	3	2	...	...	1	...	...	...
Accidents	2	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
All other causes	13	4	1	1	...	2	5	...
All causes	47	14	3	2	3	13	12	...